4.4 DEFINITIONS

As used herein, the designations "CryI" and "Cry1" are synonymous, as are the designations "CryIC" and "Cry1C." Likewise, the inventors have utilized the generic term Cry1C* to denote any and all Cry1C variants which comprise amino acid sequences modified in the loop region of domain 1. Similarly, *cry1C** is meant to denote any and all nucleic acid segments and/or genes which encode such modified Cry1C* proteins. In similar regard, the inventors have used the terms Cry1* to denote any and all Cry1 variants which comprise amino acid sequences modified in the loop region of domain 1. Similarly, *cry1** is meant to denote any and all nucleic acid segments and/or genes which encode such modified Cry1* proteins. A similar convention is used to described modified loop domain variants in any of the related crystal proteins and genes which encode them.

In accordance with the present invention, nucleic acid sequences include and are not limited to DNA (including and not limited to genomic or extragenomic DNA), genes, RNA (including and not limited to mRNA and tRNA), nucleosides, and suitable nucleic acid segments either obtained from native sources, chemically synthesized, modified, or otherwise prepared by the hand of man. The following words and phrases have the meanings set forth below.

Broad spectrum: refers to a wide range of insect species.

Broad spectrum insecticidal activity: toxicity towards a wide range of insect species.

Expression: The combination of intracellular processes, including transcription and translation undergone by a coding DNA molecule such as a structural gene to produce a polypeptide.

Insecticidal activity: toxicity towards insects.

Insecticidal specificity: the toxicity exhibited by a crystal protein towards multiple insect species.

Intraorder specificity: the toxicity of a particular crystal protein towards insect species within an Order of insects (*e.g.*, Order Lepidoptera).

Interorder specificity: the toxicity of a particular crystal protein towards insect species of different Orders (*e.g.*, Orders Lepidoptera and Diptera).

LC_{50}: the lethal concentration of crystal protein that causes 50% mortality of the insects treated.

LC_{95}: the lethal concentration of crystal protein that causes 95% mortality of the insects treated.

Promoter: A recognition site on a DNA sequence or group of DNA sequences that provide an expression control element for a structural gene and to which RNA polymerase specifically binds and initiates RNA synthesis (transcription) of that gene.

Regeneration: The process of growing a plant from a plant cell (*e.g.*, plant protoplast or explant).

Structural gene: A gene that is expressed to produce a polypeptide.

Transformation: A process of introducing an exogenous DNA sequence (*e.g.*, a vector, a recombinant DNA molecule) into a cell or protoplast in which that exogenous DNA is incorporated into a chromosome or is capable of autonomous replication.

Transformed cell: A cell whose DNA has been altered by the introduction of an exogenous DNA molecule into that cell.

Transgenic cell: Any cell derived or regenerated from a transformed cell or derived from a transgenic cell. Exemplary transgenic cells include plant calli derived from a transformed plant cell and particular cells such as leaf, root, stem, *e.g.*, somatic cells, or reproductive (germ) cells obtained from a transgenic plant.

Transgenic plant: A plant or progeny thereof derived from a transformed plant cell or protoplast, wherein the plant DNA contains an introduced exogenous DNA molecule not originally present in a native, non-transgenic plant of the same strain. The terms "transgenic plant" and "transformed plant" have sometimes been used in the art as synonymous terms to define a plant whose DNA contains an exogenous DNA molecule. However, it is thought more scientifically correct to refer to a regenerated plant or callus obtained from a transformed plant cell or protoplast as being a transgenic plant, and that usage will be followed herein.

Vector: A DNA molecule capable of replication in a host cell and/or to which another DNA segment can be operatively linked so as to bring about replication of the attached segment. Plasmids, phagemids, cosmids, phage, virus, YACs, and BACs are all exemplary vectors.

4.5 PROBES AND PRIMERS

In another aspect, DNA sequence information provided by the invention allows for the preparation of relatively short DNA (or RNA) sequences having the ability to specifically hybridize to gene sequences of the selected polynucleotides disclosed herein. In these aspects, nucleic acid probes of an appropriate length are prepared based on a consideration of a selected crystal protein gene sequence, *e.g.*, a sequence such as that shown in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:58, or SEQ ID NO:60. The ability of such nucleic acid probes to specifically hybridize to a crystal protein-encoding gene sequence lends them particular utility in a variety of embodiments. Most importantly, the probes may be used in a variety of assays for detecting the presence of complementary sequences in a given sample.

In certain embodiments, it is advantageous to use oligonucleotide primers. The sequence of such primers is designed using a polynucleotide of the present invention for use in detecting, amplifying or mutating a defined segment of a crystal protein gene from *B. thuringiensis* using PCR™ technology. Segments of related crystal protein genes from other species may also be amplified by PCR™ using such primers.

To provide certain of the advantages in accordance with the present invention, a preferred nucleic acid sequence employed for hybridization studies or assays includes sequences that are complementary to at least a 14 to 30 or so long nucleotide stretch of a crystal protein-encoding sequence, such as that shown in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:58, or SEQ ID NO:60. A size of at least 14 nucleotides in length helps to ensure that the fragment will be of sufficient length to form a duplex molecule that is both stable and selective. Molecules having complementary sequences over stretches greater than 14 bases in